

Remarks

The Office Action objected to claim 11 for indefiniteness, raised certain art rejections with respect to claims 2-12, 15, 16, 19-21 and 44-47, and allowed claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 24-36. In view of the above amendment, and the remarks below, reconsideration of claims 2-10, 12, 15, 16, 19-21 and 45-47, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Indefiniteness

The Office Action objected to claim 11 based on § 112, second paragraph. To facilitate allowability, claim 11 has been canceled, with some of the claim 11 subject matter being folded into claim 2. Claim 2 now makes clearer how references to the fold lines are being made in the context of an accordion-like structure.

Previously Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 24-36 have been allowed. Since they have not been amended, they should remain allowable.

Art Rejections

Claim 44 has been canceled to facilitate prosecution, without prejudice to the interpretation of the remaining claims.

With respect to claims 2-10, 12, 15, 16, 19-21 and 45-47, these are all dependent on claim 2. Claim 2, and thus also claims 3-10, 12, 15, 16, 19-21 and 45-47, have now been amended to recite the switchback accordion nature of the layers, in the context of the fold lines. See e.g. Fig. 11 of the drawings and paragraph [0099].

The references relied upon to reject these claims depict head structures that essentially use a “bending” in U fashion, rather than a folding, of the layers. The Office

Action acknowledges that some of the references now being relied on clearly don't show fold lines in this context. However, the Office Action asserts that others do suggest them.

The Applicants do not see in the cited art any suggestion of their type of "fold line", as distinguished from temporary creases formed in material as it is bent which disappear after the material is let loose. For example, U.S. patent 2,666,223 permits corners of the material to be gathered to form the brush head. However, this is merely bending. If the material is removed from the tube 10, there would be no pre-formed fold line.

In any event, the still rejected claims have now been further amended to emphasize the double reversal switchback nature of the layer structure. This is clearly not suggested by the art of record. Specifically:

(a) the Fig. 15 structure of U.S. patent 1,933,215 has no accordion/switchback type structure where a strip goes one way, reverses at a fold line, and then reverses in opposed fashion again at a second fold line.

U.S. patent 1,993,215 was applied against claim 11 subject matter. However, none of the Office Action's commentary relative to that patent described where this patent taught the "accordion" feature. In any event, it does not teach a two reversal structure, as this was intended by the term "accordion", and in any event that is now more clearly stressed in amended claim 2.

(b) For U.S. patent 2,666,223 while it was applied against claim 11 subject matter nothing in the Office Action's commentary relating thereto described where this

patent taught an accordion feature. Moreover, it does not teach a two reversal structure as is now more clearly stressed in claim 2, or certain other features.

(c) U.S. patent 2,514,496 was not applied against claim 11 subject matter, and it does not teach a two reversal structure as is now more clearly stressed in claim 2, or certain other features.

(d) U.S. patent application publication 2001/0052162, and U.S. patents 2,813,286, 6,745,427, 4,031,673 and 6,368,003 were not applied against claim 11 subject matter. Again, they also do not show a switchback double reversal structure or certain other features.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. As no additional claims have been added, no additional fee is believed necessary for consideration of this amendment. However, if one it, please charge it to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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